

**SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY EVENING
OCTOBER 29, 2013**

PRESENT: Parella, Calouro, Stuart, and Sweeney

ABSENT: Herreshoff

ALSO PRESENT: Antonio A. Teixeira, Town Administrator

The Council met in special session on Tuesday, evening, October 29, 2013 in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, beginning at 7:03 o'clock PM, Council Chairman Parella presiding:

1. Poppasquash Road Area Water Line Project, Phase II Plans/Funding

Documents Received:

- Pamela M. Marchand, P.E., Executive Director and Chief Engineer BCWA re Construction of Phase 2 of Poppasquash Road Water Main.
- Pare Engineering re "Poppasquash Point Water Main Upgrades - Phase 2 Opinion of Probable Construction Cost" and "Poppasquash Point Water Main Upgrades - Phase 2 Cleaning and Lining Opinion of Probable Construction Costs"

Council Chairman Parella noted that the purpose of this evening's meeting was to receive a report on the Poppasquash Road Phase 1 which was being "worked through" and also to consider the financing of a Phase 2 project.

Pamela Marchand explained that the BCWA was working with the State Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to determine a possible route for Phase 2 through Colt State Park. She introduced Tim Theis of Pare Engineering to provide further information.

Mr. Theis explained that the pipeline repaired as a result of Phase 1 was operating better than it did previously. He explained the proposed route of the Phase 2 pipe through the park.

Councilman Sweeney asked to know the final cost of Phase 1 with Mr. Theis explaining that the project did not cost as much as was appropriated.

Concerning Phase 2, Mr. Theis reported that the DEM approves of the proposed alignment of the pipeline and that the Water Authority must secure the permission of the Coastal Resources

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Management Council (CRMC) for the southern-most part of same. He added that the line is proposed to run through the buffer zone of the coastal feature so that approval may not be very difficult and that he has received positive feedback from the State authorities thus far.

He added that the project will require "heritage" approval and that this will require the report of an archaeologist.

Councilman Sweeney asked to know how much remains in the Phase 1 \$400,000 budget with Mr. Theis stating that he was unsure of the exact amount and estimated this to be \$30-40,000.

Mr. Theis also reported that the BCWA completed some water main repairs along Asylum Road in anticipation of the repaving of the road.

Ms. Marchand reported that the Water Authority outlined information provided in her memorandum and explained the Authority is considering the repair and relining of the existing water main and discussion ensued regarding the other options.

Councilman Stuart observed that Ms. Marchand's figures seem to indicate that the Town might have to provide \$297,000 for the Phase 2 project.

Council Chairman Parella asked for the opinion of the Bristol-appointed directors of the BCWA.

Frank J. Sylvia, a member of the Water Authority, noted that most of the BCWA customers are from Bristol and that the Authority recently addressed the problem with the Franklin Street water main. He added his concern about the cost to address the low pressure problems on the northeast side of Town.

Mr. Sylvia calculated that one-half of the rate-payers are from Bristol and that he personally supports going forward with the Phase 2 project but cautioned that the northeast customers believe that they are first in line for the next set of capital improvements.

Council Chairman Parella noted that the Poppasquash residents were provided information regarding the existing line in good faith and built accordingly.

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Mr. Sylvia reported that there is a plan in place provided by Fire Chief Martin to provide fire protection exclusive of the defunct hydrants.

Georgina Macdonald, a member of the Water Authority, stated that the situation is "murky" and that records appear to be lost. She added that there is an "ad-hoc policy" regarding relining of pipe and that Bristol believes that it needs a new line.

Council Chairman Parella stated that she believes rectifying the situation should be the responsibility of the BCWA.

Ms. Marchand stated that the policy of the BCWA is similar to other entities in the State. She added that the BCWA has limited capital resources and that most of these are committed to other projects.

Councilman Stuart stated that the percentage of rate-payers in Bristol should weigh the allocation of the capital funds.

Councilman Calouro observed that a certain condominium complex in a high elevation area was told by the BCWA that sufficient water was available despite continued concern about insufficient water pressure.

Ms. Marchand reported that the Water Authority recommended that booster pumps should be required in that particular case. She added that at first the Authority recommended against the building of the project and later compromised with the booster pump recommendation.

Councilman Sweeney asked to know if the Town paid 100% of Phase 1 with Ms. Marchand responding that the Town did pay 100%.

Councilman Calouro suggested that the Town might wait to see if Phase 1 improved the hydrant pressure prior to committing further funds.

Ms. Marchand reported that the model indicates that pressure will be at 200 gal/min and that 500 gal/min is required.

Ms. Macdonald asked if the "dead end" of the line creates the problem with Ms. Marchand reporting that there is not enough water flow in the line. She added that this diminishes along the length of the line with notable losses along each 1000 feet.

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Ms. Macdonald asked to know if the line can be run in a loop fashion with Mr. Theis responding that this was not a practical option.

Councilman Sweeney asked to know about DEM with Mr. Theis responding that DEM approves of the plan.

Councilman Sweeney asked to know if there was a study done and if this study was complete with Mr. Theis reporting that there is to be not a study but rather a review of the plan.

Councilman Stuart asked to know about the archeological considerations with Mr. Theis reporting that this was completed in conjunction with the one necessary for the additions to the bicycle path. He noted that "not much" was discovered.

Councilman Stuart asked to know if the remaining portion of the archeological study represents a delay with Mr. Theis reporting that this would not represent a significant delay - perhaps only a few weeks.

Councilman Stuart asked to know the status of the CRMC permit with Mr. Theis responding that the application has been submitted and that the request represents only a "minor disturbance" to the buffer zone.

Councilman Sweeney asked to know if the project might be ready for springtime with Councilman Calouro suggesting that the Authority may wish to engage the financial support of the State since the availability of the new line will be useful for the park.

Mr. Theis noted that the new design is not advantageous to the State.

Council Chairman Parella asked to know about the State's fire protection concerns with Ms. Marchand stating that the State will perhaps consider cisterns or wells for this purpose.

Fire Chief Martin stated that he believes that the Town paid enough for water improvements already with the Asylum Road line. He added that he would like to know what will happen to the water rates once the existing line is cleaned and lined. He also stated that he believes that the Water Authority should address the matter of hydrants since the Town pays rent for these and that if the Town were to pay for the hydrants, it would essentially pay the Authority rent for its own property.

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Fire Chief Martin added that there is a sufficient plan for fire-fighting on Poppasquash and that he can also utilize nearby salt water for fire-fighting.

Mr. Theis noted that the relined and repaired pipe may provide 400 gal/min and that this was still short of the required 500 gal/min.

Fire Chief Martin noted that the "rules" require 500 gal/min but that 400 gal/min may be sufficient. He stated that he would like to have information to back this up in order to do a comprehensive analysis to determine if the line would be adequate for the area.

A discussion ensued regarding the additional availability of fire-fighting water in the area as found in swimming pools and cisterns.

Kenneth Booth, of the Water Authority, observed that an 8" pipe was needed to bring the line to standard.

Councilman Calouro asked to know if the combination of the smaller improved line and the swimming pools, etc., would suffice with Fire Chief Martin noting that he would like to view the entire picture and evaluate same. He added that he already has an "attack plan." He added that it may be more cost-effective to build additional cisterns.

Councilman Calouro noted that Fire Chief Martin suggests that the situation might be reviewed by the State Fire Marshal.

Fire Chief Martin added that he would like to determine if the combination of efforts will place the water availability within the goal and that perhaps the State Fire Marshal will approve of the plan without the expense of the resized water main.

Council Chairman Parella asked to know if the data may be produced via a computer model with Mr. Theis responding that this would be possible. He noted that the Phase 1 computer model was found to be accurate but cautioned that there may be some variability between the computer model and the actual result.

Councilman Calouro encouraged Fire Chief Martin to review the situation with the State Fire Marshal after the analysis is complete.

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Council Chairman Parella asked to know the timeframe of the proposed analysis with Mr. Theis responding that much of the data is already available.

Joseph Brito, Jr. speculated that the "host pipe" may be problematic.

Council Chairman Parella stated that the better solution may be to find a more equitable split of the additional cost.

Ken Booth informed the Council that he spoke with State officials and that there appears to be no funds available for a line in Coggeshall Farm Road. He added that a sprinkler system for the park property may cost \$250,000.

Town Administrator Teixeira asked to know the cost of the engineering with Mr. Theis explaining that an additional \$25-30,000 was needed.

A discussion ensued with Town Administrator Teixeira noting that the extra unexpended funds from Phase 1 were used in support of the preparation work for Phase 2.

Ms. Macdonald reported that a portion of these funds were applicable to the recreation center.

Councilman Calouro stated that there are two options - to reline the existing pipe and to replace the existing pipe with a larger diameter one. He noted that there would be no cost to the Town to reline the existing pipe and that the Town would need an answer to determine if there will be sufficient water service via the relined pipe.

A discussion ensued regarding the Water Authority's commitment to expend the capital funds for this purpose with Mr. Sylvia commenting that the funding is not guaranteed at this point. He cautioned that the various parties should not assume that the expenditure will be approved since the matter requires five (5) votes in favor of same.

Ms. Macdonald asked to know if the project is included in the Water Authority's capital plan with Ms. Marchand responding that it is included.

Council Chairman Parella stated that the decision requires the completed analysis of the relined pipe and an answer from Fire

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Chief Martin regarding the suitability of same if this is to be the option.

Councilman Stuart expressed concern that the existing pipe may have weak joints.

Ms. Marchand stated that the Water Authority will assume responsibility for line maintenance and repair once it is either relined or newly reconstructed.

Councilman Calouro asked to know when the report on the analysis of the water flow will be available with Mr. Theis responding that this should be available in one (1) week.

Council Chairman Parella asked to know when the answer from the State will be available.

Fire Chief Martin asked to know if it was desirable to include a larger (than 8-inch) pipe if the pipe is going to be replaced with Ms. Marchand responding that this would not be advisable since there would be no appreciable benefit and that water may become stagnant in the pipe if it was too large.

Councilman Stuart asked to know when the Water Authority will react to the matter with Mr. Sylvia noting that it is on the Authority's agenda for "general discussion."

Council Chairman Parella stated that it would be important to know the plans of the Water Authority.

Paul Bishop, a member of the Water Authority, suggested that it may be more plausible that the Authority approve a new pipe versus a relined one.

Mr. Brito suggested that the Council provide a date and an agenda for a follow-up discussion.

It was agreed that the Council would meet again on November 19, 2013 provided that the following is available:

A result of the Water Authority discussion
The flow analysis as provided by Mr. Theis
A copy of Fire Chief Martin's letter to the State
A reply from the State
Town Administrator Teixeira's analysis of the cost

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Mr. Theis agreed to provide his information next week and Ms. Marchand reported that the Water Authority will meet on November 6, 2013.

2. Bristol County Water Authority Finance Matters

There was no discussion or action concerning this matter.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business, upon a motion by Councilman Calouro, seconded by Councilman Sweeney and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this meeting to be adjourned at 8:13 o'clock PM.

Louis P. Cirillo, CMC
Council Clerk